



Arkema Removal Action June 2005

Arkema To Clean Up Sediments and Riverbank

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Arkema, Inc. have signed a legal agreement to clean up contaminated riverbank and sediments in the Willamette River at the Arkema site on Front Avenue in Portland. The agreement, an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), authorizes the third "Early Action" cleanup project at the Portland Harbor Superfund site. The cleanup will reduce risks to human health and the environment, before the larger Portland Harbor cleanup is finished.

Under the agreement, Arkema will identify the nature and extent of contamination next to the facility. Contaminants include sodium chlorate, hexavalent chromium, dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), monochlorobenzene (MCB) ammonium perchlorate, and hydrochloric acid. DDT and its breakdown products form a persistent toxin that can reach unsafe levels in fish.

Arkema will clean up the hot spot in the intertidal area and submerged lands on and next to the Arkema site. EPA will oversee the work and make a final decision on what cleanup method to use.

Cleanup Goals

The cleanup goals at Arkema are to reduce health risks to people who come into contact with site sediments and the riverbank, eat fish and shellfish or drink river water. Additional goals are to reduce contaminant levels to protect fish and wildlife that use the Arkema site and Willamette River, and to stop contamination from migrating to the river or downstream from the site.

The cleanup will not address all contamination and hazardous substances from the Arkema site. The river-wide Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup will address contamination outside of the Early Action project area.

Next Steps

In September, about ninety days after the agreement was signed, Arkema will present to EPA its detailed plan for developing an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). Developing the EE/CA and controlling upland sources of contamination will take from two to three years. Cleanup alternatives will be offered for public comment in 2007 or 2008. EPA will keep you informed of project developments. (See *Community Outreach* on page 3.)

Site File Available for Review

The site file is available at the information repositories and on the EPA website (see page 3 for details). The site file includes the Administrative Order on Consent, the Statement of Work, and supporting documentation.



Community Outreach

During the Arkema Early Action, EPA will work to keep the community informed and involved. We will:

- Provide updates at monthly meetings of the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group;
- Provide progress updates in the Portland Harbor quarterly newsletter;
- Visit community groups and neighborhood associations when requested;
- Keep the Portland Harbor website updated with project information on Arkema.

About the Arkema Site

The Arkema site, next to the Willamette River at river mile 7.5, is just upstream of the Railroad Bridge. Arkema was formerly known as Atofina Chemicals, Elf Atochem and Pennwalt. Manufacturing no longer takes place at the facility, and many of the buildings have been demolished.

From 1941 to 2001, various chemicals were produced at the site, including chlorates, chlorine, sodium hydroxide, DDT, ammonium perchlorate and hydrochloric acid. In the late 1940s, waste

from the manufacture of DDT was discharged to a floor drain that is believed to have discharged to the Willamette River. From 1948 until 1954, DDT waste was discharged to an unlined, on-site settling pond. Hexavalent chromium and other hazardous substances were released at the site. DDT disposal ponds partly remain in the upland areas. Interim removal actions are under way in the upland areas, guided by a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) source control agreement.

For More Information, contact:

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Information repositories are located at these Multnomah County libraries:

St. Johns Branch Library
Reference Desk
7510 N. Charleston Avenue

Northwest Branch Library, Reference Desk
2300 NW Thurman Street

Central Library Government Documents
Reference Desk
801 SW 10th Avenue

On the Web at:

Portland Harbor website: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/arkema>



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